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MANTI LASAL

National Forest

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

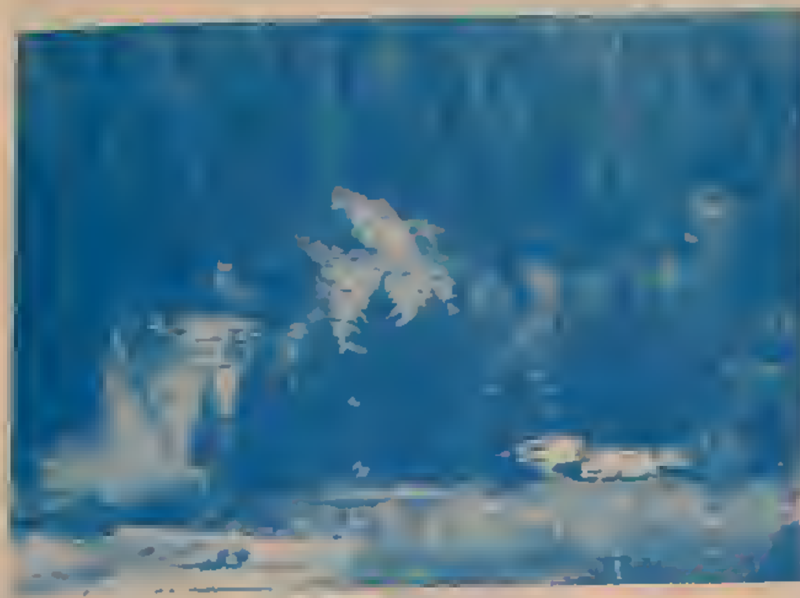
72699

More than a million acres have been leased for oil and gas exploration on the Manti-LaSal National Forest, and one of the world's largest sources of uranium is found beneath and near the LaSal Division.

Forest of Many Facets

Few National Forests in the nation can claim a more fascinating variety of features than the Manti-LaSal. Located in the heart of central Utah, its Manti Division hugs a rugged rambling strip of the Wasatch Plateau running about 70 miles north and south.

Half a day's journey to the southeast lies the LaSal Division near the Utah-Colorado border. The LaSal's two Ranger Districts, the Monticello and Moab, are situated like remote green islands in a colorful sea of desert and rock. On these picturesque parcels of public domain you can visit areas similar in color and beauty to the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. A few hours of travel will transport you from cactus and desert sands, upward to forests of aspen, ponderosa pine, spruce and fir.



The Forest furnishes a wide diversity of recreational opportunities. Some 20 camp and picnic areas containing 360 separate family units are maintained. More are planned to meet the growing demand.

The Forest is one of striking contrasts. Geologic formations vary from beautiful to the grotesque. The buff, orange or rose color of the sandstone cliffs counterpoint the background of forest greens.

All told, the Manti-LaSal National Forest encompasses more than 1½ million acres. Its Manti portion was established in 1903 at the request of local citizens – to protect its vital watersheds. The LaSal portion was established a short time later, and in 1949, the two were combined to form the present Forest.

And Many Uses

Like all of America's National Forests, the Manti-LaSal is managed to serve the best interests of all the nation's people. The Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of June 12, 1960, charges the Forest Service with: "The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forests so they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people . . ." And this, the Act stipulates, must be done by "the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the National Forests without impairment of the productivity of the land."

Youngsters on the Manti-LaSal pitch in to help keep the Forest replenished with seedlings. Plantings help assure that timber can be harvested yearly without depleting the future supply.

Major uses and resources of the National Forests are forage, outdoor recreation, timber, water and wildlife – also minerals, which are classified as nonrenewable.

Ranges and Remedies

At the turn of the century, before the Manti-LaSal National Forest was established, some 450,000 sheep and 30,000 cattle were grazing what is now the Manti Division area alone. Livestock use built up rapidly following valley settlement and at its peak included many "transient" bands of sheep. Slopes, once lushly carpeted, became dust beds and bands of sheep on the mountain could be counted from the valleys by the dust clouds they raised. Fires built around bed grounds to keep the coyotes off sometimes "backfired," heading for the tall timber. Some of them burned for weeks on end. The result was widespread depletion of the high mountain watersheds, setting the stage for increasing numbers of devastating floods.

Some 2,700 acres of denuded watersheds on the Manti LaSal have been contour trenched to rest re-eroded slopes and prevent flooding. Approximately 73,000 additional acres have been reseeded to permit the return of natural vegetation.

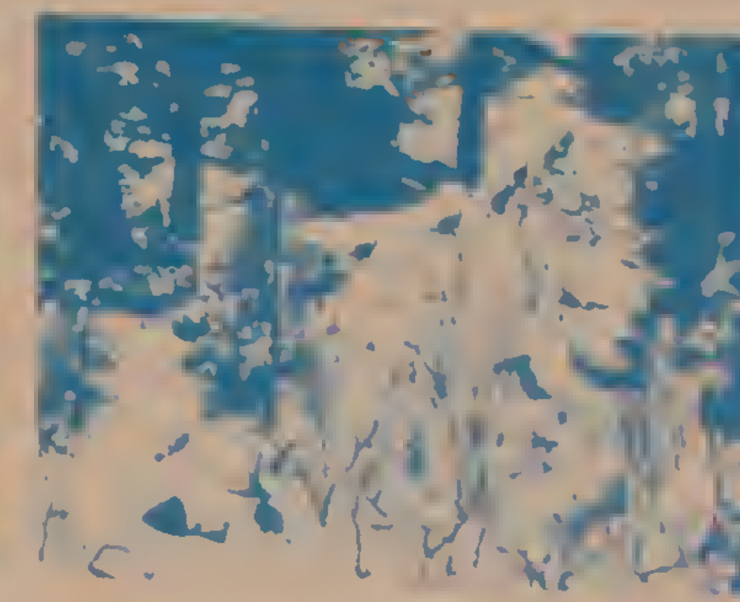
During the intervening 60 years, conditions have improved on the Manti-LaSal National Forest. While much still needs to be done, progress is being made. In an effort to continually improve forage conditions, Forest personnel are making a thorough study of all grazing allotments. With the completion of each study, grazing use is balanced with the available forage supply. Improved systems of grazing such as rest or deferred rotation have proven highly successful in perpetuating and protecting the ranges and their soil and water. Thus maximum forage yields are obtained year after year – a truly renewable resource.

Currently about 20,000 cattle and 110,000 sheep graze on Forest range lands during the summer season.

Whats Beneath It All?

One of the world's largest sources of uranium is found beneath and near the LaSal Division. With the increase in mining and construction of reduction mills for breaking the ore down, uranium is contributing greatly to the economy of Moab and Monticello.

It was in the early 1900's that the first oil and gas wells were drilled. Today more than a million acres have been leased for oil and gas exploration. Natural gas has been discovered and about 15 wells on or near the Forest are producing. Several major oil companies are currently conducting seismographic surveys for this valuable resource.



[illegible] Manti LaSal National Forest.

Part of the Manti Division lies within the rich Carbon County coal field. Thousands of acres are under lease for coal exploration, and many mines are operating.

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Enjoying the Past and Present

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Manti-LaSal National Forest is its history, portrayed in vivid, tangible reminders. Throughout the Forest are ghosts of once highly-developed Indian civilizations, the Anazazi and other cultures. In many areas you can find fascinating reminders of their past – numerous pictographs and petroglyphs in caves and along cliff walls, arrowheads, stone grinding bowls and other artifacts.

These things combine with spectacular Forest scenery to lure visitor and recreationists in swiftly-increasing numbers. During 1962, the Manti-LaSal registered 179,000 visits, an increase of some 70,000 over the number tallied a decade earlier.

Running along the very top of this Forest's Manti Division is one of the most scenic, high mountain roads in the nation – the well-known Skyline Drive. Presently linking Highway 50 and 6 with Ferron and Mayfield to the south and with additional access from the bisecting Orangeville-Ephraim and Fairview-Huntington Forest highways, the road climbs and dips over 65 miles of superb scenery. On a clear day you can see westward all the way to the mountains of Nevada, and as far as the LaSal mountains along the Colorado border to the southeast. When completed, the drive will cover 135 miles between Thistle and Spring Canyon east of Salina. *The road is unsurfaced and fairly rough in places; people who wish to traverse it should do so in good weather.*

More than 20 camp and picnic areas containing about 360 separate family units are maintained throughout the Forest in an atmosphere that is best summed up in the words "neat" and "natural." More are planned for the future to meet the growing demand.

Farms in the Forest

Trees are an integral part of any Forest. Here on the Manti-LaSal, aspen, Engelmann spruce, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, and a variety of other species provide timber for the present and the potential for a continuing crop in the future.

A continuing sustained harvest of timber and forest products can be obtained from the Manti-LaSal National Forest annually without depleting the future supply.

Timber has long been an important resource in this area, meeting the needs of earlier settlers and miners, and providing great quantities of railroad ties. For many years, in fact, the former Manti National Forest (now the Manti Division) led all other Forests in Utah in timber production. Only recently, however, has the LaSal Division become an important timber producer. Large-scale cutting commenced in 1958, and today one of Utah's largest sawmills is in operation near Blanding.

About 16 sawmills are currently operating on or near the Forest.

Between the Clouds and Valleys

None of the Manti-LaSal's resources has ever been more important than water. People of this area had become painfully aware of the fact by the year 1900, when Lewis R. Anderson ran for Mayor of Manti promising to reduce the growing flood menace resulting primarily from watersheds depleted by overgrazing. On the strength of that platform he won, and went to work. The Forest was created as a result of the local citizens petitioning for such action to protect the watersheds and reduce the flood hazard.

To actually prevent floods, however, on-the-spot mechanical treatment was needed on the flood source areas of the eroding watersheds. It was learned that as little as 10% of a watershed's area, generally at or near a drainage divide, can be the actual flood source area. Today some 2,700 acres of these denuded areas have been contour trenched – a practice pioneered by the U. S. Forest Service – to capture water from torrential rains permitting it to seep gradually into the earth. That way the water can percolate under ground to the valleys emerging as wells or springflow, instead of flooding down over the surface. Also 73,000 acres have been reseeded to help restore the necessary protective vegetation. More of this work is needed to keep active gullies and unstable stream banks from spewing out their discontent in muck, debris, and turgid waters. But remedies for past ills are costly and land managers must first correct the cause.

Water from the Forest presently supplies 50 reservoirs, meeting the domestic, farm, and industrial needs of 27 communities. It is used at the rate of nearly a billion gallons each year. Insuring that these gallons come clear and clean is one of the Forest Service's most important obligations. It is important also, to see that some of the water remains on the mountains to sustain vegetation, fish, and wildlife, for the needs of recreationists, livestock, and other purposes.

Happy Hunting and Fishing

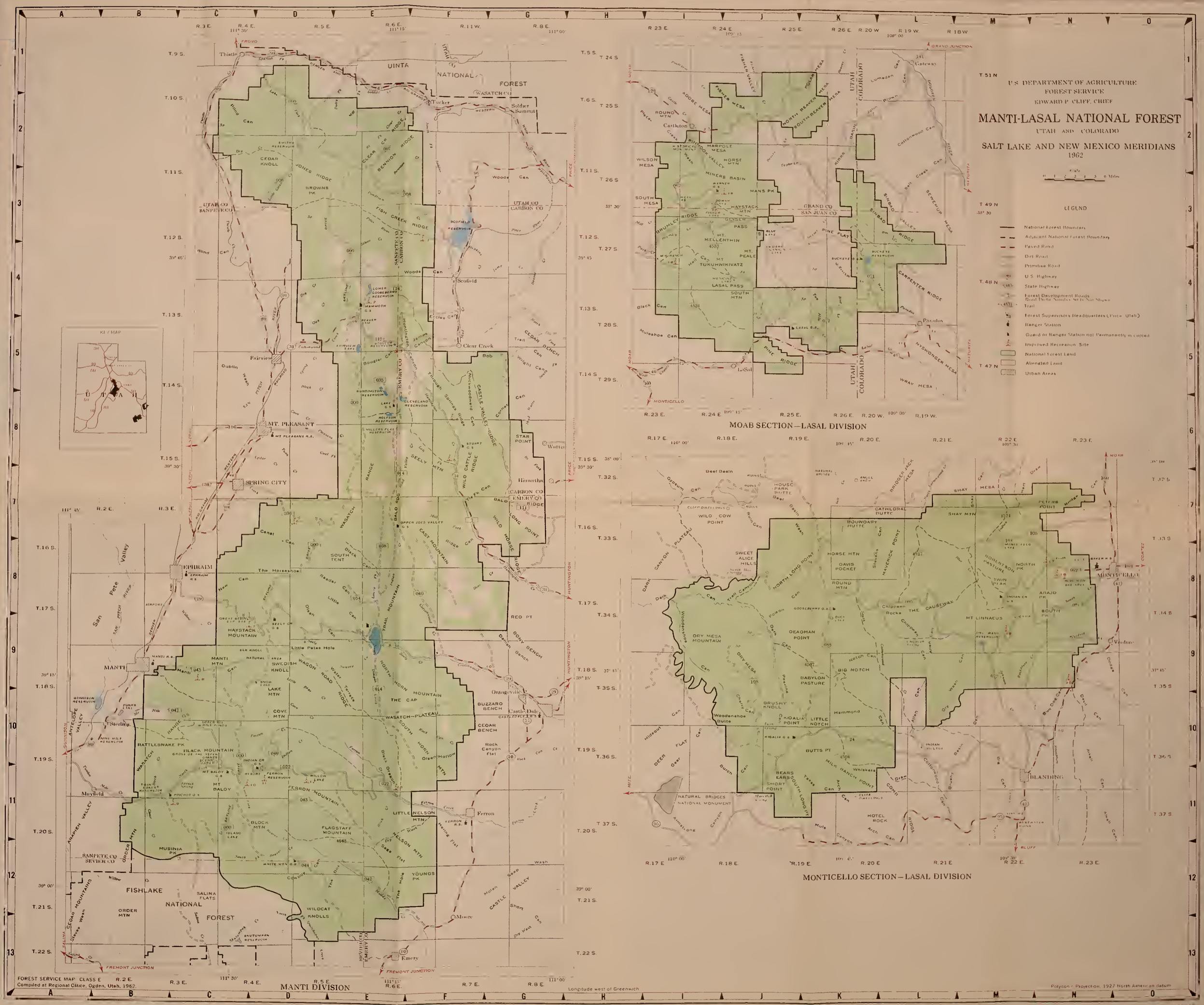
National Forests are *your* hunting and fishing grounds. Thousands of hunters come to the Forest each fall in quest of game. National recognition has been given to the deer hunting found within the Manti-LaSal National Forest. Others are attracted by numerous fishing streams, reservoirs, and lakes.

Fishing and hunting offer many an opportunity for a momentary escape from the turmoil of the atomic era to the quiet beauty of mountainous surroundings. Fishermen made 50,600 and hunters 38,200 visits to the Forest during 1962. Hunters harvested nearly 21,000 deer and over 200 elk from Manti-LaSal National Forest lands the same year. Such hunting not only provides recreation for thousands, but helps prevent overstocking and the related problems of starvation and erosion.

Other wildlife found on the Forest are black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, blacktail, snowshoe and cottontail rabbits, the varying hare, blue, ruffed, and sage grouse. The mourning dove is the most prevalent game bird and receives the greatest hunting pressure.

Wild turkeys have been introduced by the Utah State Fish and Game Department to the Moab and Monticello Ranger Districts in southeastern Utah. The birds appear to be increasing, and the first limited hunt brought a return of 74 turkeys.

The hunting and fishing harvest is administered by the Utah State Fish and Game Department. Maintenance of a stable and productive habitat and an adequate food supply is a Forest Service responsibility.


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
EDWARD P. CLIFF, CHIEF
MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST
UTAH AND COLORADO
SALT LAKE AND NEW MEXICO MERIDIANS
1962
LEGEND
National Forest Boundary
Adjacent National Forest Boundary
Paved Road
Dirt Road
Primitive Road
U.S. Highway
State Highway
Forest Development Roads
Trail
Forest Supervisors Headquarters (Price, Utah)
Ranger Station
Guard or Ranger Station not Permanently occupied
Improved Recreation Site
National Forest Land
Alienated Land
Urban Areas
MOAB SECTION—LASAL DIVISION
MONTICELLO SECTION—LASAL DIVISION
MANTI DIVISION
UINTA NATIONAL FOREST
FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST
KEY MAP
FOREST SERVICE MAP CLASS E
Compiled at Regional Office, Ogden, Utah, 1962.
Longitude west of Greenwich
Polyconic Projection, 1927 North American datum

ONLY YOU

CAN PREVENT

FOREST FIRES

RECREATION SITES
MANTI-LASAL NATIONAL FOREST

NAME OF RECREATION SITE	MAP NO.	MAP LOCATION	ELEVATION	SEASON OF USE	CAMPING UNITS	FISHING	HUNTING	BOATING	LAKE	STREAM
Fish Creek ••	1	F-3	8000	Moy-Oct.	5	X	X			X
Gooseberry	2	E-4	8400	Jun-Oct.	3	X	X		X	X
Flat Canyon	3	E-5	8800	Jun-Oct.	20	X	X			X
Huntington Canyon	4	F-6	7800	Moy-Oct.	6	X	X			X
Forks of Huntington	5	F-6	7600	Moy-Oct.	13	X	X			X
Spring City	6	D-7	7500	Jun-Oct.	*	X	X			X
Lake Hill	7	C-9	8500	Jun-Oct.	4	X	X			
Manti Community	8	C-9	7400	Jun-Oct.	*	X	X			X
Pinchot	9	B-11	7000	Moy-Oct.	*	X	X			X
Twelve Mile	10	C-11	9800	Jun-Oct.	10		X			
Ferron Reservoir	11	D-11	9600	Jun-Oct.	29	X	X	X	X	
Willow Lake	12	D-11	9000	Jun-Oct.	3	X	X		X	
Ferron Canyon	13	E-11	7000	Moy-Oct.	11	X	X			X
Worner	14	J-3	9200	July-Oct.	10	X	X		X	
Lake Oowah	15	I-3	8800	Jun-Oct.	13	X			X	
Pack Creek	16	I-4	6800	Jun-Oct.	*	X	X			X
Buckboard	17	N-8	8600	July-Oct.	3		X			
Dalton Springs	18	N-8	8200	July-Oct.	4		X			
Red Bluff	19	M-9	8200	July-Oct.	*		X			
Devil's Canyon	20	N-9	7400	Jun-Oct.	2		X			